



# SKIPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## Sixtieth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1939.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

The report is an "Ordinary Report" drawn up on the lines suggested in the Ministry of Health Circular 1961, and, in accordance with the economy cuts recommended by the Central Authority and local Councils, repetition is avoided by reference to information given in the "Survey Report" of 1930. Further details of work done are restricted to facts essential to the maintenance of the continuity of records kept for the past fifty-nine years.

The incidence of infectious disease showed less than the usual variation. Non-notifiable diseases—Chicken Pox and Whooping Cough—were certainly prevalent, but Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were average.

Improvement in trade was good and unemployment showed a hopeful decline, largely due to military requirements.

As shown later under Vital Statistics, the birth-rate was lower and the death-rate and infant mortality higher than in 1938.

### A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

1. PHYSICAL FEATURES
2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

} See 1930 Report.

## 3. GENERAL DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	4,211
Population (1921 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	12,013
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	12,461
Population (1939 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	12,910
Inhabited Houses (1939 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	4,005
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£89,165
Sums represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£342

## VITAL STATISTICS.

## (a) BIRTHS.

The Births registered as occurring in or belonging to the District were 160.

Legitimate	...	...	84 males and 73 females.
Illegitimate	...	...	1 male and 2 females.

Birth-rate on an estimated population of 12,830 is equivalent to 12·4 per 1,000, compared with 12·6, 11·6 and 13·1 in the previous three years, with 12·8 for the Craven Combined Districts, and with 15·1 for England and Wales.

## (b) DEATHS.

The deaths, after correction by the inward transfer of residents dying outside the District and the outward transfer of non-residents dying inside the District, numbered 86 males and 91 females—a total of 177.

The Death-rate is thus 13·7, compared with 13·5, 14·3 and 11·8 in the previous three years, with 13·2 for the Craven Combined Districts, and 12·1 for England and Wales.

## (c) INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant deaths, as corrected by the Registrar General, were 5 males and 4 females—all legitimate.

The infant mortality was therefore 56 per 1,000 births, compared with 62, 87 and 30 in the previous three years, with 32 for the Craven Districts, and 50 for England and Wales.

## (d) STILL BIRTHS.

Number of still births registered, 9.

Percentage of still births to total births (alive and still born), 5·3, compared with 4·6 in Craven Urban and 4·4 in Craven Rural Districts.

## (e) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of maternal deaths from puerperal causes—0.

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—nil, compared with 2·5 for the Craven Combined District and with 2·8 for England and Wales.

## ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

The seven principal zymotic diseases, namely Small Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Diarrhœa, were responsible for 1 death, compared with 4, 1 and 0 in previous three years.

The Zymotic death-rate, therefore, was ·00, compared with ·31, ·07 and ·00 in the previous three years, and with ·03 in the Craven Combined Districts.

For the calculation of Death rates the estimated population is 12,910.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death in Skipton Urban District, 1939.					M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	86	91
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	—	—		
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	1
6	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	3	1		
10	Other tuberculous diseases	...	2	1		
11	Syphilis	...	—	—		
12	General Paralysis of insane, tabes dorsalis	...	—	—		
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	6	15		
14	Diabetes	...	2	1		
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	9	4		
16	Heart disease	...	23	38		
17	Aneurysm	...	1	—		
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	15	12		
19	Bronchitis	...	4	1		
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	2	0		
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	—	—		
22	Peptic ulcer	...	1	—		
23	Diarrhoea, etc., under 2 years	...	—	—		
24	Appendicitis	...	—	1		
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	2	—		
26	Other diseases of liver	...	—	2		
27	Other digestive diseases	...	2	2		
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	2	2		
29	Puerperal sepsis	...	—	—		
30	Other puerperal causes	...	—	—		
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, &c.	...	2	3		
32	Senility	...	—	—		
33	Suicide	...	1	—		
34	Other deaths from violence	...	2	—		
35	Other defined diseases	...	7	7		
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	—	—		
	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):					
	Small-pox	...	—	—		
	Poliomyelitis	...	—	—		
	Polioencephalitis	...	—	—		

To the total death-rate of 13.71

Infectious Diseases contributed	.07
Tuberculosis	.54
Cancer	1.60
Heart Disease	4.72
Respiratory Diseases	.54
Apoplexy	1.00
Senility	.00
Premature Birth, &c.	.39
Other Diseases	4.85

General death-rate and infant mortality, average; maternal mortality nil.

## AGES AT DEATH (approximate).

Age.	Deaths.	Percentage.	Period of Life.
0—1	9	5.2	Infancy
1—5	1	.5	Early Childhood
5—15	1	.5	School
15—65	63	39.3	Working
65 upwards	103	64.3	Autumn and Winter



## B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### 1.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

M.O.H.—WILLIAM SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., C.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—F. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.

### 2.—HOSPITALS, CLINICS, PROFESSIONAL NURSING, etc.

There has been no development or change in the services provided by the Council during the year. Details of these, as well as those established and supervised by the West Riding County Council, were given in the 1932 Report.

The negotiations between the W.R.C.C. and the Isolation Hospital Committee for the admission of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia into the Isolation Hospital are satisfactorily concluded. Four cases were admitted during the year.

SMALLPOX.—The Bingley and Shipley Joint Hospital Board was approached by the Skipton Urban and Skipton Rural Authorities for the admission of cases of Smallpox into their hospital, and an agreement prepared, but not concluded, at the end of the year. Negotiations are in progress for the sale of the old hospital site.

## C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### 1.—WATER SUPPLY.

A general description of the town's water undertaking was given in the Report for 1930. The supply in any normal year is more than sufficient for the needs of the town, even although the average daily consumption for domestic and trade purposes exceeds 49 gallons per head of the population. 3,995 houses are on the public supply, leaving 20 out-lying houses and farms on private supplies.

The normal depth of water in the Embsay Moor Reservoir is 56 feet. In July it fell to 53 feet, but gradually filled up and with little variation continued full the remainder of the year.

The quality of the water supplied to the town has never been in question, and since the open spring water tank (used for washing the filters) was covered over the growth of algæ in the water has been effectively checked. Further extensions of mains were carried out owing to building activity, particularly to new dwellinghouses in the Regent Road area, Raikeswood, Hurrs Road and Great Wood Avenue districts. In view of the possibilities of Whinnygill Reservoir having to be used for town's purposes during the war, samples of the water were obtained, which revealed that without treatment the water was satisfactory for domestic purposes, although not of the high standard obtained from Embsay Moor.

PLUMBO SOLVENCY, &c.—Samples of tap water were repeatedly examined for the presence of lead, with negative results. A sample taken in Brougham Street after standing in the pipe all night showed nil per gallon.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.—Report on samples collected from tap in Water Inspector's office :—

Bacterial Content : Average number of organisms developing on agar incubated for two days at 37°C.=2 approx. per ml. of water. Average number developing for three days at 22°C.=13 ml.

Presumptive B. Coli : None in 100 ml. of water.

The examination shows this water is satisfactory according to the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Health Laboratory,  
County Hall, Wakefield.

### 2.—SEWERAGE DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following details supplied by your Inspector are of interest :—

“There is a fairly complete system of sewerage in the town, no extensions of mains being required during the year.

"At the Sewage Disposal Works, with the exception of additional sludge drying beds which have been laid, there have been no alterations. A scheme is in hand for the conversion of the Ings Lane pumping plant from gas to automatic electric power for the sewage belonging to the Broughton Road district.

### 3.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, SCAVENING, &c.

"The town is on the water-carriage system, there being 3,852 water closets, 8 waste water closets and 4 privies. 42 cisterns with proper flushing arrangements were installed during the year, compared with 40, 55 and 46 in the previous three years. 23 water closets have been provided and 21 re-conditioned.

"The 4 privy-closets in the town are situated too low for the public sewer and are therefore provided with galvanised containers and emptied weekly.

"36 water closets were constructed for new houses in 1939.

"SCAVENING.—The abolition of joint ashpits is steadily progressing, 10 being done away with during the year and 18 removeable ashbins provided in their place. All new houses are, of course, supplied with separate moveable bins.

The weekly collection of dry ashes and trade refuse continues as formerly. Total cost of collection and disposal of refuse £2,227.

REFUSE REMOVAL.—The steady increase in the number of new houses continues—36 this year and approximately 765 during the past ten years. These new houses are of a type which entails longer distances to be traversed in collecting the refuse. The composition of the refuse is gradually changing. The bulk, if not the weight, is certainly greater. Owing to the national demand for waste paper and other refuse of salvage value, the baling of waste paper was continued.

The purchase of another 7 eub. yards refuse collecting vehicle has proved an improvement—the complement of vehicles now consisting of two 7 eub. yards and one 4½ eub. yards waggons, all of the covered type.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.—The bulk of the town's refuse is tipped under controlled methods on low-lying ground off Carleton Road, Ings Lane and Short Bank Road—the latter site being for heavy trade refuse only. No complaint has been received regarding the condition of the tips. A further area at Ings Lane and Carleton Road was soiled over for completion—a condition to be observed in renting the land.

During the year 2,686 loads, weighing 4,100 tons, were collected and tipped, at a cost of 11s. per ton, including cost of disposal."

### 4.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK, &c., completed in the year ending December 31st, 1939 :—

Number of complaints received during the year	...	...	68
Number of Houses built during the year	...	...	36
Number of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected	...	...	1125
House drains repaired, cleansed, &c.	...	...	42
House drains trapped and ventilated	...	...	6
New Baths fitted	...	...	10
Waste pipes trapped	...	...	20
Water closets repaired, cleansed, &c.	...	...	21
Water Closets supplied with Water	...	...	42
Water closets provided	...	...	28
Ashpits, &c., converted to Bins	...	...	10
Ashpits repaired and covered	...	...	4
Removal of accumulation of dung, stagnant water, animal and other water	...	...	5
Eaves troughs provided and repaired	...	...	19
Removal of animals improperly kept	...	...	4
Filthy houses ordered to be cleansed	...	...	6



Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1935 standard)	...	...	...	0
Smoke records taken (15 observations)	...	...	...	6
Offensive trades complained of	...	...	...	—
Schools disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	—
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	26
Common lodging house inspections	...	...	...	12
Slaughter-house inspections	...	...	...	326
Bakehouse inspections	...	...	...	36
Dairies and Cowshed inspections	...	...	.....	26
Milkshop inspections	...	...	...	4
Canal boats inspected	...	...	...	11
Premises examined under "Factory and Workshops Act"	...	...	...	22
Plans approved	...	...	...	77
Plans disapproved	...	...	...	3
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	—
Preliminary Notices (informal)	...	...	...	67

## 5.—PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

### (a) COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one Common Lodging House in the district and this was regularly inspected as to cleanliness of bedding, floors and whitewashing. Although these premises cannot be said to be ideal, they supply a need, and owing to a decrease in the number of lodgers, plans were submitted and approved for alterations last year and the work carried out, reducing the number of the lodgers from 75 to 40.

### (b) BAKEHOUSES.

There are 18 bakehouses in the town. The general arrangement and condition were found satisfactory, except in four instances, where whitewashing was overdue but remedied after notice.

### (c) OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Two tripe-boiling and one gut-scraping business come under this description—the latter being in connection with the Public Abattoir.

### (d) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The following observations by your Inspector are interesting :—

"15 observations were taken during the year and only one chimney was observed to emit black smoke beyond the permitted allowance of two minutes in 30. This was followed up with a warning notice and a visit to the works.

"A Soot Gauge to collect the atmospheric deposit to ascertain the amount of deleterious matter in the air is in operation. The West Riding County Council defray the cost of the monthly analyses and compare the results with those of larger towns.

"There are now 101 such stations operating in conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, London, who compile statistical data, etc., for the country

"During the year monthly analyses showed an average deposit of 16.4 tons per square mile, compared with 15.1 tons last year.

"Although the district may be classed as semi-rural in character, there is no doubt the absence of smoke, i.e., a purer atmosphere, would tend to improvement in the general health.

Frequent observations, the more general interest taken by stokers and prompt action against offenders resulted in only one verbal notice being necessary in the case of factory chimneys. One prosecution was instituted this year in respect of 'firing' domestic chimneys

Your Inspector was re-elected on the Executive of the W.R. Smoke Abatement Committee as a representative of the Urban District Council.

## (d) FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

A Register, Record Book and Fire Escape Book are kept in which are entered details as to sanitation, air space, ventilation, drainage of floors, cleanliness, etc.

The following list shows the number of Factories and Workshops on the Register :—

FACTORIES.	
Printing Works... ..	4
Cotton Factories ... ..	8 (13 sections)
Dye Works .. ...	3
Public Laundry... ..	—
Ironworks ... ..	2
Cabinet Works ... ..	4
Engineers and Motor Engineers	7
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>28</b>
WORKSHOPS.	
OCCUPATION.	Number.
Shoemakers and Cloggers ...	18
Tailors ... ..	10
Trip-Boilers ... ..	2
Blacksmiths ... ..	3
Bakehouses ... ..	18
Dressmakers and Milliners ...	18
Saddlers... ..	2
Gutscrapers ... ..	1
Joiners ... ..	6
Disinfectant Works ..	1
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>79</b>

14 inspections of workshops and 8 of factories were made.

Want of cleanliness was found in 1 instance, and other nuisances in 8 other cases, all of which have duly been remedied.

Lime-washing was overdue in 4 instances, and had to be carried out after notice.

## (c) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

Plans for New Baths have been prepared and application made for a grant for construction.

During the summer months samples of water from both covered and open baths were taken, the bacteriological examination showing no B. Coli in any of the samples taken from the covered pool. The open swimming pool is partially running water and here the bacteriological examination was not so satisfactory.

Chemical examinations : pH value 7·0 in covered pool, 7·5 in open pool (the Ministry of Health standard being 7·6—8) and little or no free chlorine present.

## (f) CAMPING SITES.

None within the Urban District.

## (g) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) The number of houses found infected was 4, as against 13 last year—one being a Council house.

(2) Remedical measures adopted by the Sanitary Inspector—intense fumigation by sulphur compound (Cimex) and minor infestations by spraying by insecticides—particular attention being given to bedding mattress and skirting board. In no instance was evidence found of infestation after disinfection.

(3) Careful inquiry is made before allowing tenants to remove to Council houses, and in one case disinfestation measures had to be carried out. Every unoccupied house is inspected before allowing occupation.

(4) The work of disinfestation is undertaken by the Sanitary Authority.

## (h) SHOP ACT.

The County Council are the Authority empowered to enforce hours of employment, while the Urban Council are responsible for all sanitary arrangements.

During the year 10 inspections were made. Two exemptions were granted as to separate w.c. accommodation for males and females owing to structural difficulties and only one female employed.

There are no regular out-workers in the district, although occasionally during a busy season some tailoring or dressmaking work may be taken home. Two notices of such have been received.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890 is in force in the district.

## (i) CANAL BOATS.

Eleven Boats were boarded and inspected. The following infringement was found :—Deck leaking, 2, and remedied after notice. In 11 instances where complaint notes existed, inspections were made and complaint notes cleared.

## (j) RATS DESTRUCTION ACT.

The campaign against these destructive rodents resulted in 1,158 being killed, chiefly on the tips, during the year. During “Rat Week” 76 were accounted for in various parts of the town : 186 baits of rat-poison were laid with good effect.

## (k) UNWANTED PETS.

The lethal chamber installed at the Gasworks, in charge of the Inspector R.S.P.C.A., was used for destruction of 109 dogs and 130 cats. This method of destruction prevents unnecessary suffering and the animals instead of being thrown into the canal are hygienically disposed of at the Gasworks.

F. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.

## 6.—SCHOOLS.

The five elementary and two secondary schools have all town’s water laid on and are provided with water closets with automatic flushing apparatus, the majority with separate flushing cisterns.

There was slight interference with school attendance by Chicken Pox, Measles and Whooping Cough. The following cases were reported by the local Education Authority :—

Chicken Pox : Catholic School, 32 cases ; Parish School, 11.

Whooping Cough : Christ Church School, 16 cases.

Measles : Parish School, 42 cases ; Brougham Street, 17 ; Christ Church, 6.

Medical Inspection is undertaken by West Riding Education Authority and a separate report issued by the County Medical Officer.

A School Clinic is held every forenoon in the Wesleyan School for treatment of minor ailments.



## D.—HOUSING.

## STATISTICS.

## (a) Number of NEW HOUSES erected during 1939 :

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(ii) By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	36

## 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) a. Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	51
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	..	51
(2) a. Number of dwellinghouses (including under sub head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	..	..	..	..	..	51
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	..	107
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	5
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	51

## 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	..	..	..	35
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## 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :—

## (a) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	..	..	..	..	..	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By Owner	..	..	..	..	..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	..	..	..	—

## (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..	..	..	..	..	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By Owners	..	..	..	..	..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	..	..	..	—

## (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	..	..	..	..	..	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	..	..	..	..	..	—

## (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	..	..	..	..	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	..	..	..	..	..	—

## 4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING :—

(a)	(1.)	Number of dwellings overcrowded	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
	(ii.)	„ families dwelling therein	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
	(iii.)	„ persons	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
(b)		New Cases of overcrowding reported during the year			..	..	..	..	—
(c)	(i.)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
	(ii.)	„ persons thus relieved	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
(d)		Number of houses again overcrowded after abatement			..	..	..	..	—
(e)		Any other particulars of interest	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Houses demolished as unfit		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Houses permanently closed as unfit		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

F. HOLMES, Housing Inspector.

## HOUSING SUFFICIENCY.

The demand for houses of the semi-detached type has continued and 36 new houses have been built by private enterprise and sold to the occupiers, chiefly in the Hurrs Road and Regent Crescent district. Further developments are projected, but owing to war breaking out in September the schemes have been held in abeyance. These continued operations have proved a boon in providing dwellings for those people who could afford to purchase and, incidentally, reducing the need for the Council's efforts ; at the same time creating a moving round, although 50 per cent have been purchased by newly-married couples. The Council decided to deal further with some of the older houses placed in unsatisfactory positions and houses not up to a good standard, and a further survey of the town was proposed.

The Council purchased more land at Horse Close, Keighley Road district, and lay-out plans were prepared. Application was made to the Ministry of Health, who replied that unless he was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed he was not prepared to approve. After consideration, the Council decided to defer the matter sine die.

At the end of last year all known cases of overcrowding were dealt with. During the year five unfit houses have been demolished and 35 houses have been re-conditioned.

The Medical Officer presented a further report on his inspection of the now derelict property in Newmarket Street owned by the Government, and the Council is making efforts for its demolition and clearance of the site.

## E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## 1.—MILK DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 12 cowkeepers, 13 cowsheds and approximately 190 cows in the district. All were again inspected twice by the County Veterinary Surgeon and 26 times by the Sanitary Inspector.

Your Inspector further reports that he took 36 milk samples for the sedimentation test to detect visible filth. With 6 exceptions all were considered satisfactory—the exceptions coming from outside districts and being remedied after investigation and co-operation with the Authority concerned.

## 2.—MEAT.

No serious contravention of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, was observed, but three butchers had to be warned to ensure clean wrappings being used when transporting meat from outside the district to stalls in High Street.

There are two private slaughterhouses, both registered. The humane (captive bolt) killer is used to stun cattle and pigs before slaughter—for sheep its use is optional.

Licences for slaughter : 38 renewals were granted.

Treatment of Food Contaminated by Gas : Your Inspector was appointed to fill the position of officer required by the Ministry of Health for dealing with contaminated food.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Ex. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ...	857	70	73	4739	2289
Number inspected ... ..	857	70	73	2300	2289
All diseases except Tuberculosis— whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	2	16	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	44	7	—	23	7
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	5·2	10·0	4·1	1·6	0·35
Tuberculosis only — whole car- casses condemned ... ..	1	1	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	12	8	—	—	40
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis ... ..	1·5	12·8	—	—	1·7

## SUMMARY.

At the public abattoirs the following animals were slaughtered Beasts 823, Sheep 4,427, Pigs 1,977, Calves 73.

During the year the following were condemned as being unfit for human consumption from all sources :—

7 whole carcasses, 2 Beasts, 16 Sheep, 1 Pig, 3 Calves	...	1781 lbs.
Part Carcasses for localised disease	... ..	265 „
Organs, etc.	... ..	1359 „
Total		3405 „

Compared with 2,853 lbs. in the previous year.

Total number of animals inspected affected with disease ... 162, or 2·2%

## 3.—ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The sampling of milk and action under the Food and Drugs Act are undertaken by the W.R.C.C., whose Inspector reports elsewhere on the local administration of the Act.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.—Registration of manufacturers of ice cream and potted meat and sausages. 33 applications were considered and granted.

## F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

## (A) NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

As stated, under an earlier heading, the town was comparatively free from minor infectious disease. Chicken Pox and Measles invaded all schools ; Whooping Cough, principally Christ Church School.



## (B) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—INCIDENCE AND CONTROL.

The number of cases notified—some only provisionally—their ages, removal to hospital, etc., are given in the following table :—

Diseases.	Cases Notified.	AGES—YEARS.					Removed to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 and Upward.		
Scarlet Fever ...	11	—	2	5	4	—	10	—
Diphtheria ...	10	—	3	4	3	—	10	—
Enteric, &c., Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—	1	2	2	—	—
Pneumonia ...	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—

Scarlet Fever : Only 11 notifications were received, compared with 35, 8 and 7 in the previous three years. All cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital except one.

Diphtheria : 10 cases were notified, compared with 4, 2 and 14 in the previous three years—all removed to hospital.

With regard to other notifiable diseases—in fact, in regard to all—suffice it to say only 31 notifications were received during the year, compared with a total of 172 in 1934, 48 in 1935, 50 in 1936, 16 in 1937, and 30 in 1938.

SKIPTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—During the year 89 cases were admitted, compared with 123, 66, 266, 292, 122, 111, 52 and 116 in the previous eight years.

District.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric, &c., Fever.	Other.	Total.
Skipton Urban ...	10	10	—	1	21
„ Rural... ..	28	14	1	2	45
Silsden Urban ...	10	1	—	—	11
Earby Urban ...	—	12	—	—	12
Colne ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The County Bacteriologist reports the following specimens were examined in the County Laboratory during 1939 :—Widal reaction 1, Sputa for T.B. 11, Urine for T.B. 2 Bio Chemical 13, Miscellaneous 15, Swabs Diphtheria 54. Total 96.

## (c) TUBERCULOSIS.

In accordance with the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, a register is kept, the patients' homes are visited and advice given as to the precautions to be adopted in regard to ventilation, sleeping accommodation, indiscriminate spitting, cleanliness and above all, to the risk of infection from dried sputum. Disinfection of infected rooms is carried out on removal or death, and on the return of patients from Sanatorium or Hospital the house is again visited to see that so far as possible treatment is continued at home.

Below is given new cases, positive or suspected, ages and deaths, on the form suggested by the Minister of Health :—

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
5—10 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
15—20 ... ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25 ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
25—35 ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
35—45 ... ..	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
45—55 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	3	2	3	1	3	1	2	1

Death-rate : Pulmonary .31, Non-pulmonary 0.23, total .54, compared with .38, .61, .47, .38 and .38 in the previous five years, and with .49 for the Combined District.

At the beginning of the year there were on the register 50 pulmonary and 16 non-pulmonary cases—a total of 66. New cases numbered 5 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary, i.e., 9; and cases removed from the register on account of death, recovery, left district, refused treatment, etc., were 10, thus leaving on register 65, made up of 45 pulmonary and 20 non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

No action was taken or required under the P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor under the P.H. Act, 1925, Section 62, which empowers certain cases of Tuberculosis to be compulsorily removed to hospital.

#### (d) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS (P.H. Act, 1936, Section 176).

Apart from provision by the County Council of hospital treatment for Ophthalmia Neonatorum, welfare centres, school clinics and the systematic examination of school-children, no action has been taken by the Council.

### G.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

At the Welfare Centre in the Wesleyan School, Water Street, a Committee of ladies and the W.R. Health Visitor, Nurse Grieve, continue their good work. Meetings for mothers and babies are held weekly a clinic being conducted by Dr. J. M. Anderson on each occasion.

The Infant mortality was 56, compared with 62, 87 and 30 in the three previous years, and with 32 for the Craven Combined Districts and with 50 for England and Wales.

### H.—EVACUATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN SCHEME.

A Committee, with Councillor Jones as Chairman and your Inspector (Mr. Holmes) as Billetting Officer devoted much time and energy in organising a satisfactory scheme in preparing survey books, and in securing volunteers to carry out a survey of householders in the reception area willing to receive evacuees.

As months passed without developments, a second survey had to be made, the Committee receiving invaluable assistance from the W.V.S. Organisation under Miss Henderson and Miss Preston.

On September 1st, 135 children with 10 teachers, and on September 2nd 15 mothers with 25 children, arrived from Bradford—a number considerably less than expected. The detraining station for the Urban District, Skipton Rural and Silsden was Skipton, and Belle Vue Welfare Hall formed the Reception Centre. Here the children were marshalled, rations issued and 'buses loaded for the outside areas. By the end of the year less than one-third of the unaccompanied children remained, along with 2 mothers and 7 children.

Meanwhile, records of payments, cancellation of billeting forms, transfer, etc., arrangements, threw much additional work and responsibility on the billeting officer and the W.V.S. Voluntary Helpers. For this, it is hoped, the gratitude of the parents, the children and the Evacuating Authority may be felt and freely expressed.

In conclusion, I beg to express my indebtedness to Mr. Holmes, Sanitary Inspector, for much valuable assistance in carrying on the Health Services of the town and for many details of work initiated and conducted by his department during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILL SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Keighley,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1940.



# COMPARATIVE TABLE.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, ETC., IN 1939.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Craven Combined District.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
BIRTHS :				
Live ... ..	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.8
Still ... ..	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.61
DEATHS :				
All Causes ... ..	12.1	12.0	11.2	13.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.01
Influenza ... ..	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.62
Diphtheria ... ..	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.46
Enteric Fever ... ..	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.01
Erysipelas ... ..	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.19
Pneumonia ... ..	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.40
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	50	53	40	32
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.	4.6	6.3	3.0	0.00
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0.77	} Not available		0.00
Others ... ..	2.16			2.70
Total ... ..	2.93			2.70
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).			
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0.74	} Not available		0.0
Others ... ..	2.08			2.45
Total ... ..	2.82			2.45
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Puerperal Fever ... ..	14.35	17.26	12.99	7.7
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..				

Skipton  
Urban District Council.

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KEIGHLEY, October, 1940.

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THE CRAVEN HERALD LTD., SKIPTON.